



# *Mount Argus Bulletin*

## *The Parish of St Paul of the Cross*

-- Saint Paul's Retreat, Mount Argus, Dublin 6W (Eircode: D6W XR66) --

Phone: 01 4992000 Email: [office@mountargusparish.ie](mailto:office@mountargusparish.ie)

Website (including Bulletin online): [www.mountargusparish.ie](http://www.mountargusparish.ie)

Temporary Administrator: Fr. Pat Fitzgerald C.P.

---

### **Masses at Mount Argus**

Sunday: 8.00 am, 11.00 am, 4.00 pm  
Monday to Friday: 10.00 am, 6.15 pm  
Saturdays: 11.00 am, 6.15 (Vigil Mass)  
Working Holydays 6.15 pm Vigil, 10.00 am, 6.15 pm

### **Church Opening Hours**

Sunday: 7.30 am to 5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday: 9.30 am to 6.45 pm  
Saturday: 10.30 am to 7.00 pm

---

### **Blessing with the Relic of St Charles**

Monday to Friday after 10.00 am Mass  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 4.00 pm  
Saturday after 11.00 am Mass  
Sunday after 11.00 am and 4.00 pm Mass

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:  
11.00 - 11.30 am, 4.00 - 4.30 pm  
Saturday: 4.00 to 5.30 pm

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

**St Charles Novena Mass:** Saturday, 11.00 am

Wednesdays and Fridays: 4.00 to 6.00 pm

---

## **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **“How Happy Are You”**

I have to be honest, as the day approached I had a considerable degree of trepidation. What happens if only a handful turn up? What if there are no new people? In terms of morale, and contrary to popular wisdom, sometimes it's better not to have tried at all than to have tried and failed dismally. And there was another part of me that was eager to see how things would go. And in view of the feedback I had been getting, there was every reason to believe that it would turn out to be a very worthwhile exercise. It just goes to show – when it comes to life in Mount Argus Parish, it's very hard to predict what's going to happen next!

I knew there was something not quite right when I saw that the car park was filling up rapidly. Admittedly it was a quarter full of trespassing parkers before we even started. But quickly all the available – and some unavailable – spaces were filled, and both sides of the avenue, and then people just coming up, doing a multi-point turn, and going off again. And that's just the car park! The Centre was similarly over-run, with queues out the door, as people inside tried to locate a chair, or even a space to stand, and eventually even a space in the vicinity.

And the cause of all the mayhem? A meeting of volunteers and prospective volunteers to be updated on safeguarding issues. Who would have thought? The problem arose because, while it was intended for our partnership of parishes, it was mistakenly advertised in several other parishes. I don't know how much people got from the actual presentation – probably those lucky enough to get seating did best in that regard - but many people were very positively impressed that there should be so many volunteers involved in parishes.

And I suppose that was one of my main sources of frustration. In the general chaos there was no way of singling out the many people from our own parish who were there, and particularly the people who had come along to offer to join the ranks of our present wonderful helpers. I had hoped that at the end of the presentation we might have had a short gathering to welcome them and arrange to meet

with them at a later date. However, we do have the sign-in sheets, (I hope!) and, please God, we can arrange a meeting in the very near future.

I didn't have much time to be pondering on Wednesday evening's events, as I had to be up bright and early the next morning to leave my car in for a service preparatory to an NCT test this coming week. All went well until I went to pick it up again late in the afternoon. Then I saw the bill! I thought maybe they had replaced mine with a new car. (Sometimes I exaggerate a little bit.) But it certainly helped to focus my attention later when I got around to reading the first sentence of Our Lord's sermon in today's Gospel – "How happy are you who are poor, yours is the kingdom of God".

Actually it is a rather interesting passage that's put before us in this Sunday's gospel reading. At first we might be tempted to think of it as the Sermon on the Mount, but in reality Luke makes clear that it is on level ground, where the people were gathered. So He wasn't looking down on them. And He was addressing the 'poor' and the 'hungry' and those 'who weep'. He wasn't, in other words, talking theory, but their reality. And He was using the word 'happy' in their regard. That should cause me to pause and think. 'Happy' wouldn't have been the first word I would have used to describe myself on Wednesday evening, or Thursday. But when I think about it, many people in our world would have been over the moon if that was all they had to worry about – an overcrowded hall, or a bill they could easily afford to pay. Time to count my blessings – and there are a lot of you!

-----00000OOO00000-----

### **Your suggestions and reflections appreciated**

I mentioned last week about introducing into the Bulletin in future weeks a feature something along the lines of **We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - nn; we remember those who have died recently - nn; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time - nn.** Many of you were very supportive of the idea. It may take a little time to get up and running, but we'll get there. One thing to highlight – if names are submitted for the 'sick or housebound' then it must be with the express permission of the persons concerned – we need to respect that people have different attitudes with regard to their privacy.

You may have noticed this week that at last we have returned from the trappings of the covid era. All the seats have been replaced in their proper positions, and the sanitising stations at the back of the church have been removed. The most noticeable way this will affect most people is in relation to receiving Communion. The cross-aisle in the church is much too far up, especially as the majority of our congregations seem to prefer the back half of the church. For the present, for the distribution of Holy Communion if there are two people distributing, they will both be at the top of the centre aisle; if there are three ministers there will be one each at the tops of the centre and two side aisles. If you have any better suggestions I will be very happy to receive them.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

There will be a meeting of our Parish Council this coming Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, in the Upper Room. If you have any matters you would like to have considered, please let either Fr. Pat or a member of the Council know in good time.

### **Accord Collection**

The annual Collection for **ACCORD** Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made after all Masses on this weekend. Accord continues throughout the Diocese to offer: Marriage Preparation courses - online, small groups; Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships; A relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools. Accord Dublin needs your support this year more than ever. Please give generously.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Collection**

This will take place next week-end, 22/23<sup>rd</sup> February, after all masses.

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock – April 26<sup>th</sup>:**

The Knock pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, April 26, and will include workshops, outdoor walks, the Sacrament of the Sick and Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. Any queries about the pilgrimage, please email [knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie).

**Financial Update – 16 February 2025:** Collection last Sunday, €1270. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €368. Payments via credit card machines past week, €507.

### **MOUNT ARGUS PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to be a living parish where all will feel welcome, everyone will be appreciated and encouraged to use their gifts and people and priests work together to develop a community of faith and compassion.